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**HELLENISTIC COINS FROM THE JAGIELLONIAN UNIVERSITY
EXCAVATIONS AT THE HELLENISTIC-ROMAN AGORA
OF NEA PAPHOS (*PAPHOS AGORA PROJECT* 2011–2019):
PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS¹**

ABSTRACT: The present article is a short and very preliminary report about the Hellenistic coins found during excavations conducted by the team of the Institute of Archaeology, Jagiellonian University at the agora of the ancient Nea Paphos in 2011–2019. The first archaeological research at the agora had been conducted in the late 1960s and 1970s by Kyriakos Nicolaou. The Jagiellonian University team, led by Ewdoksia Papuci-Władyka started to explore the agora area in 2011. There were at least 480 coins and coin flans found during the Polish excavations. Great part of them are minted in the Hellenistic Period. The group consists mainly of Ptolemaic coins (over 67%), but includes also Cypriot bronzes of the *Zeus/Zeus* type (20.5%), coins of Syro-Palestinian region (Seleucid, Hasmonean rulers – over 6%), Macedonian-Antigonid issues (3.8%), the coins from south-eastern Aegean and Asia Minor (1.6%) as well as others. Some preliminary observations concerning chronology and structure of the finds are presented.

ABSTRAKT: Niniejszy artykuł jest krótką i bardzo wstępną informacją na temat monet hellenistycznych odkrytych podczas prac wykopaliskowych prowadzonych przez archeologów z Instytutu Archeologii UJ na agorze starożytnego Nea Pafos w latach 2011–2019. Pierwsze badania archeologiczne agory przeprowadził na przełomie lat 60. i 70. XX w. Kyriakos

¹ The original version of the current paper entitled Hellenistic coins from The Jagiellonian University Excavations at the ancient Agora of Nea Paphos (Paphos Agora Project 2011–2016) had been presented during international conference Numismatica Centroeuropea III, held at Bystrzyca Kłodzka on 17–20 of September 2018. I would like to thank professor Ewdoksia Papuci-Władyka for the possibility to work with the coins from Jagiellonian University excavations at the agora of Nea Paphos and for permission to publish them. The Project is funded by the National Science Center, Poland Maestro grant: no. 2014/14/A/Hs3/00283 in 2015–2019 with contributions by the Faculty of History of the Jagiellonian University"

Nicolaou. Zespół archeologów z Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego pod kierownictwem Ewdoksji Papuci-Władyka rozpoczął eksplorację terenu agory w 2011 r. Podczas polskich wykopaliśk znaleziono co najmniej 480 monet i krążków monetarnych. Znaczna część z nich (co najmniej 180 egzemplarzy) została wybita w okresie hellenistycznym. W skład tej grupy wchodzi głównie monety ptolemejskie (ponad 67%), ale także bite na Cyprze brązy typu *Zeus/Zeus* (20,5%), monety z regionu syro-palestyńskiego (Seleucydzi, Judea – ponad 6%), monety macedońsko-antygonidzkie (3,8%), monety z południowo-wschodniej części basenu Morza Egejskiego i Azji Mniejszej (1,6%) jak i inne. W artykule przedstawiono wstępne obserwacje dotyczące chronologii i struktury znalezisk.

KEYWORDS: Cyprus, Nea Paphos, agora, Hellenistic coins, finds

SŁOWA KLUCZOWE: Cypr, Nea Pafos, agora, monety hellenistyczne, znaleziska

INTRODUCTION

Thanks to its natural resources, primarily copper and timber, as well as its strategic location the island of Cyprus continued to play an important role in the Hellenistic Age.² The history of Hellenistic Cyprus has been strongly connected with the Ptolemaic dynasty. Starting with the end of the penultimate decade of the 4th century BCE until the fall of Cleopatra VII in 30 BCE, except for the short periods of Antigonid (306–295 BCE), Seleucid (168 BCE) and Roman rule (58–47 BCE), the island remained under direct control of the Lagids.³ From the late 3rd century BCE the capital of Ptolemaic Cyprus became Nea Paphos. The city was founded at the end of the 4th or at the beginning of the 3rd centuries BCE and in the later 3rd century BCE got the position of the most important center on the island and the site of its governor.⁴ Nea Paphos was located on the western part of the island's southern shore, possessed a good artificial harbor and strategic location. After Roman conquest Nea Paphos held its position till the 4th century CE, when after the disastrous earthquake in CE 346 it was replaced as the island's capital by Salamis (Constantia).⁵

The heart of almost every ancient Greek city or town was an agora. It was not different in the case of Nea Paphos. The agora is located in the central part of

² Hill 1940; pp. 156–172 and 173–211; Borowicz 2014; cf. Bravo, Wipszycka 1992, pp. 161–165.

³ Hill 1940, pp. 173–211; Bravo, Wipszycka 1992, p. 152; Borowicz 2014, pp. 155–164; Kapera 2014.

⁴ On different views of the origins of Nea Paphos see Mitford 1960, pp. 204–205; Nicolaou 1966; Kapera 1968, p. 140; Daszewski 1988; Młynarczyk 1990, p. 67; Bekker-Nielsen 2000; Balandier 2011; Borowicz 2014, pp. 147–148; Misk 2020, pp. 69–71; there the further literature.

⁵ Mitford 1980, p. 1321; Raszewski 2014, p. 230.

the ancient city, to the East of one of probable acropoleis (Fanari Hill) and to the North-East of the famous ancient residential quarter at Maloutena site. It has a rectangular plan limited by porticoes at the South, East and North, so-called Odeon (*Bouleuterion*) to the West and covers ca. 24,800 m².⁶

The pioneering archaeological research at the agora was done by the Cypriot archaeologist Kyriakos Nicolaou in 1968–1978.⁷ Nicolaou first recognized the area as an agora, although he dated it to the Roman Period. The new chapter was opened in 2011 when the archaeological expedition of the Jagiellonian University, led by professor E. Papuci-Władyka, started excavations (*Paphos Agora Project* – hereafter PAP).⁸ Thanks to the nine years of the interdisciplinary research it was proved that the agora existed in that location already in the Hellenistic period and its correct spatial coverage was established. The excavations, conducted as a part of the PAP, brought to light frequent finds of architectural remains and movable artifacts.

COINS

Except pottery, the most frequent category of finds at Nea Paphos agora are coins. In total 480 coins and coin flans were found during seasons 2011–2019.⁹ Almost all coins from the agora excavations had to undergo conservation measures. The conservation work was made by professor Marcin Biborski from the Laboratory for Archaeometallurgy and Historical Artifacts Restoration of the Institute of Archaeology, Jagiellonian University. Due to a bad state of preservation and/or a wear 187 items cannot be identified at the moment. Of the remaining more or less precisely identified 293 coins 180 (37.5% of all finds) can be assigned to the Hellenistic period (Table 1).¹⁰ This makes the Hellenistic coins the largest group among coin finds from the agora.

⁶ Misk 2020, pp. 292–293.

⁷ Nicolaou 1970a, pp. 16–17; Nicolaou 1970b, p. 75; Nicolaou 1970c, p. 395; Nicolaou 1972a; Nicolaou 1973a, pp. 56–57; Nicolaou 1973b, p. 440; Nicolaou 1975a, pp. 21–23, 27, 29–30; Nicolaou 1975b, pp. 130–131; Nicolaou 1976a, pp. 32–33; Nicolaou 1976b, p. 372; Nicolaou 1977a, pp. 41–43; Nicolaou 1977b, pp. 529–530; Nicolaou 1978a, pp. 36–37; Nicolaou 1978b, pp. 534–535; Nicolaou 1979, pp. 36–37; Nicolaou 1980, pp. 70–71.

⁸ Papuci-Władyka, Machowski 2016; Papuci-Władyka *et al.* 2018; Papuci-Władyka 2020; Misk 2020.

⁹ On some preliminary information about coin finds from agora see Bodzek 2016; Bodzek 2017; Bodzek 2020. Coin finds from Kyriakos Nicolaou's excavations were published by Ino Nicolaou (1990).

¹⁰ In reality, the number of Hellenistic coins is higher. Many of the unidentified pieces found in agora could be assigned to Hellenistic period based on fabric and general look. In the current text we deal only with more or less identified coins.

Table 1. The frequency of ancient coin finds at Nea Paphos agora, seasons 2011–2019

Period	AR	AE	Bil	Total
Hellenistic	2	178*	-	180
Roman Imperial	-	25	2	27
Roman Provincial	-	63	-	63
Byzantine	-	7	-	7
Coin flans	-	16	-	16
Unidentified	-	187	-	187
Total	2	476	2	480

*The type head of *Zeus/standing Zeus* has been included (see below).

THE STRUCTURE OF FINDS ACCORDING TO ATTRIBUTIONS

Several groups can be distinguished within the assemblage of Hellenistic coins discovered in the agora. These groups are “Antigonid-Macedonian” coins, Ptolemaic issues, Cypriot origin *Zeus head/Zeus standing* type coins, the Syro-Palestinian issues (i.e. Seleucid and Jewish coins) and finally coins from the south-eastern Aegean and Asia Minor region (Table 2).

Table 2. Coin finds in the Nea Paphos agora in the seasons 2011–2019

Group	AR	AE
Ptolemaic	2	119
<i>Zeus/Zeus</i>		37
Antigonid-Macedonian		7
Syro-Palestinian		12
SE Aegean		3
Total	2	178

The most frequent among the Hellenistic coins found in the Nea Paphos agora are the Ptolemaic ones. 121 coins minted by Ptolemaic rulers have been more or less precisely identified (over 67% of all Hellenistic coins).¹¹ As was already written most of them belong to bronze issues. Only two silver tetradrachms came to light.¹² The coins found in the agora were minted in the period between reigns of Ptolemy II (285–246 BCE) and Cleopatra VII (51–30 BCE). In reality, a detailed chronological structure of the finds is more complex. According to frequency of finds the dominant issues are that dated to the late 2nd – early or even whole

¹¹ Cf. Bodzek 2020, pp. 379–382 on Ptolemaic coin finds discovered in 2011–2015.

¹² Bodzek 2020, pp. 379–380.

1st century BCE. Such a general “dating” covers all issues traditionally attributed to particular Ptolemaic rulers of the period (starting with Ptolemy IX (101–88 BCE) and ending with Cleopatra VII). It is much safer to use that term, because the attributions of the particular issues to specific rulers are far from certain. At least 74 pieces can be attributed to the group, which is 61% of total Ptolemaic coin finds. The number includes both, well and less detail identified pieces. The most frequent Ptolemaic types from the agora are the issues listed by Svoronos under numbers 1814 (at least 9 exemplars; Fig. 1), 1698 (at least 11 exemplars; Fig. 2) and 1842 (at least 17 pieces), accompanied by other Lagid types represented in minor numbers. The earlier coins, dated to the period of reigns of Ptolemy II to Ptolemy VI (180–146/5 BCE) are less frequent (32 pieces in total). Among them at least 23 pieces are surprisingly dated to the 3rd century BCE. However, 15 of them are *Aphrodite-Arsinoe/cornucopia* or *dikeras* type coins, traditionally attributed to the rule of Ptolemy IV (221–204 BCE; Fig. 3). The dating has been recently commented by C.C. Lorber, who pointed out a possibility of much longer time of production of the very type and redated it to 2nd–1st century BCE.¹³ Such an assumption could be supported by the context of at least some finds in the agora. If one accepts such later dating of the discussed type and, following this, exclude it from the group of issues of the 3rd century BCE, there will remain only eight coins dated for this period. These are issues of Ptolemy II and Ptolemy III (236–222 BCE). This corresponds well with the similar number of the registered 2nd–century issues counting 10 finds. Having in mind that two of them are extraordinary finds of silver teradrachms there would remain again eight finds dated for the period. The chronological structure of finds affects the question of origin of the Ptolemaic coins found in the agora. The dominant group form coins struck in Cypriot mints, first of all Nea Paphos, then Salamis and perhaps also other workshops.¹⁴ To the whole group of the late 2nd–1st century issues one should add the above mentioned *Aphrodite-Arsinoe/cornucopia-dikeras* type coins which were most probably struck in the Nea Paphos mint.¹⁵ The Alexandrian mint is less frequently represented, mainly by the coins dated to the 3rd century BCE. There were no registered coins struck in other regions of the Ptolemaic domain as yet. All the Ptolemaic coin types discovered in the agora have been also registered in other locations in Paphos.¹⁶

¹³ Cf. Lorber 2018, p. 136. M. Kreuzer (2009, pp. 41–42) attributed the issue to Times of Cleopatra VII. Such attribution was however rejected by O.M. Hoover (2005).

¹⁴ Cf. Bodzek 2020, p. 380.

¹⁵ Cf. Nicolaou 1990, p. 110.

¹⁶ Cf. Bodzek 2020, pp. 379–382.



Fig. 1. Anonymous, AE, late 2nd–1st century BCE, Paphos Mint; Inv. No. PAP/FR218/2011, photo by M. Iwan, scale 1.5:1



Fig. 2. Late 2nd–1st century BCE, AE, Paphos Mint; Inv. No. PAP/FR8/2015, photo by R. Słaboński, scale 1.5:1



Fig. 3. Ptolemy IV (221–204 BCE) or 2nd–1st century BCE, AE, Paphos Mint; Inv. No. PAP/FR59/2014, photo by M. Iwan, scale 1.5:1

The second largest group among the Hellenistic coins consists of anepigraphic bronze pieces with the image of Zeus' head on the obverse and figure of standing Zeus, with a star over his head, holding ears of corn and a scepter on the reverse (Fig. 4). 37 pieces of this coin type were recorded in the agora excavations. The number makes up over 20.5% of all Hellenistic coin finds. However, it should be emphasized that almost half of the coins (16 pieces) came from one find spot, i.e. well S. 173.¹⁷ There is also some confusion as to the attribution and dating of these coins. Some scholars attribute them to the Ptolemaic rule over Cyprus, some

¹⁷ On Well S. 173 cf. Misk 2020, pp. 234–235; Kajzer 2019; Dobosz 2020, p. 235; Kajzer, Marzec 2020, p. 223.

other to the short period of the Roman Republican suzerainty over the island.¹⁸ One way or another, they are certainly related to the Hellenistic period. Indeed, they show significant convergence with Ptolemaic issues from Cyprus in terms of fabric and style. One of the mint probabilities is Paphos itself.¹⁹ The coins of this type are frequently recorded on other sites in Paphos and beyond the city.²⁰



Fig. 4. Anonymous, AE, late 2nd–1st century BCE; Inv. No. PAP/FR217/2011, photo by M. Iwan, scale 1.5:1

As mentioned above there is a group of Macedonian-Antigonid coins among those found at the agora. It should be emphasized here the term “Macedonian-Antigonid” used here is more conventional than literal due to the uncertain attribution to an issuer of some of the coins (see below).²¹ The group counts seven pieces. All belong to small bronze issues. The most frequent among them are those minted by Demetrios Poliorcetes (306–283 BCE). Due to the evidence of quite frequent circulation of coins of this type struck in Salamis, noticed in different locations in Paphos as well as in other Cypriot sites, we could guess, despite of their very bad state of preservation, that the exemplars found in the agora were minted in Salamis too.²² Less frequent are the other coins belonging to the group. These could be generally

¹⁸ The dating range from the 3rd till the 2nd century BCE; cf. Cox 1959, pp. 16, 107; Lichocka 1985; Lichocka 1998, pp. 122f; Nicolaou 1990, pp. 115–116; Helly 1970, pp. 208f, no. 16; cf. Bodzek 2020, p. 383.

¹⁹ Cf. Nicolaou 1990, pp. 115–116.

²⁰ Paphos: House of Dionysos: 39 pieces, cf. Nicolaou 1990, pp. 58–62, nos 469–509; Odeon: 2 pieces, cf. Nicolaou 1990, p. 182, nos 10–11; at least 6 exemplars at Maloutena site excavations by Polish mission, cf. Lichocka 1985, p. 184, nos 1–6; Lichocka 1998, p. 122; Curium: 21 pieces — Cox 1959, p. 16, no. 128; one piece found during the exploration of a basilica by the Dumbarton-Oaks expedition — Nicolaou 1990, p. 116; one during the exploration of the same by the University of Pennsylvania — Nicolaou 1990, p. 116; Salamis: Nicolaou 1990, p. 116; Idalion: Nicolaou 1990, p. 116.

²¹ Cf. also Bodzek 2020, pp. 378–379.

²² On coins of the very type struck in Salamis cf. Newell 1927, p. 25, no. 20, Pl. II, 9–10; Zapiti, Michaelidou 2008, nos 11–12. On their circulation in Cyprus cf. Nicolaou 1990, pp. 8–9, nos 15–20 (Paphos); Callot 2004, p. 14, nos. 17–19 (Amathus, Citium, Salamis). There were of course also coins of this type minted in other mints in circulation on the island; cf. Cox 1959, p. 5, nos 18–20.

dated to years 325–306 BCE. There is one possible Alexander the Great bronze and two anonymous *Macedonian shield with Gorgoneion/helmet* type coins (see below).

The next, slightly more numerous group form “Syro-Palestinian” issues. First of all one should mention here Judaeen coins minted by the rulers of the Hasmonean dynasty.²³ There are at least eight exemplars of Hasmonean coins registered during Polish excavations in the agora, which is a little over 4.4% of all Hellenistic coin finds (Fig. 5). The quite considerable percentage of such finds among Hellenistic coins from the agora is nothing unexpected. Numerous coins struck by Hasmonean rulers are also recorded in the other sites in Paphos as well as in other Cypriote cities. The problem of their presence was addressed by A. Destrooper-Georgiades.²⁴ One should add that there are known from the agora, but also from other sites quite numerous finds of Judaeen coins struck in the Imperial times.²⁵ The possible connection between these two groups is not entirely clear. One cannot exclude however that both Hasmonean and later Judaeen coins circulated together in the Imperial period.



Fig. 5. Alexander Jannaeus (103–76 BCE), AE; Inv. No. PAP/FR28/2011, photo by M. Iwan, scale 1.5:1

A minority among the “Syro-Palestinian” group form Seleucid bronzes.²⁶ There are only three such coins identified with some certainty. All could be dated to the 2nd century BCE. One is probably Antiochos III issue of common type *king’s diademed head/Apollo on omphalos* struck in Antioch mint (Fig. 6).²⁷ Next one belongs to serrate bronze issues. The coin is heavily worn out which makes impossible an attribution to a particular ruler or mint.

The least group of Hellenistic coins from the agora could be labeled as “South-eastern Aegean and Asia Minor”. There are three coins belonging to the group minted in Kos (Fig. 7) and Rhodes as well as by the Lycian League.²⁸

²³ Cf. Bodzek 2020, p. 383.

²⁴ Destrooper-Georgiades 2006.

²⁵ Bodzek 2020, p. 387.

²⁶ Cf. Bodzek 2020, p. 383.

²⁷ Bodzek 2020, Pl. 122, 16.

²⁸ Cf. SNG Keckman I 702–724 (Rhodes); Ingvaldsen 2002, p. 369, issue XXVI, 1–6 (Cos); Troxell 1982, p. 101, no 72γ var., Pl. 13 (Phellus).

Two first are dated to the 2nd century, the last one was minted in the 1st century BCE, probably in Phellus. The presence of these issues among the coin finds from agora, confirm contacts of Cyprus with south-eastern Aegean known from other, mainly ceramic material.



Fig. 6. Antiochus III the Great (222–187 BCE)?, AE, denomination C, Antioch on the Orontes Mint?; Inv. No. PAP/FR16/2012, photo by M. Iwan, scale 1.5:1



Fig. 7. Caria, Cos, AE, ca. 170–145; Inv. No PAP/FR 96/2016, photo by R. Słaboński, scale 1.5:1

METAL AND DENOMINATIONS

The dominant majority among Hellenistic coins found in the agora are those minted in bronze. During the research in 2011–2014, only two silver Hellenistic coins were found, which is 0.93% of all finds. Both silver coins are Ptolemaic tetradrachms, and represent high-value denominations (Fig. 8).



Fig. 8. Ptolemy VI (180–145 BCE), AR tetradrachm, 180–179 BCE, Salamis Mint; Inv. No. PAP/FR12/2012, photo by M. Iwan, scale 1.5:1

Table 3. Denominations of bronze coins found in the agora of Nea Paphos

	ca. 10 mm	ca. 10–20 mm	20–25 mm	25–30 mm	over 30 mm
Ptolemaic	3	54	50	12	2
<i>Zeus</i> / <i>Zeus</i>		37			
Macedonian- Antigonid		7			
Syro-Palestinian	1	11			
SE Aegean	2	1			
Total	6	110	50	12	2

In the case of bronze coins, the diameters of the most range from slightly more than 10 to ca. 25 mm (cf. Table 3). There are three main denominations visible: the first is ca. 12–14 mm in diameter (mainly Ptolemaic *Aphrodite-Arsinoe III/cornucopia* or *dikeras* type), the second is ca. 15–17 mm in diameter (mainly Ptolemaic Svoronos 484, *Zeus*/*Zeus* type, Syro-Palestinian and Antigonid-Macedonian coins) and the third is about 22–24 mm in diameter (mainly Ptolemaic Svoronos 1698, 1711, 1814, 1842 and Cox 119). Comparatively few are coins less than ca. 10 mm in diameter but also ca. 25–30 mm and especially over ca. 30 mm in diameter. It means that in the agora smaller (less than 15 mm and less 20 mm in diameter) and middle denominations (ca. 22–24 mm) were in the most common use. It appears also that the foreign coins circulating in one way or another in the area belonged rather to smaller or small denominations.

CHRONOLOGICAL STRUCTURE

As was shown above the chronological range of issues represented among agora finds starts with the late 4th century BCE and ends with the fall of Cleopatra VII or little later. The question of this final caesura does not raise doubts, but the problem of the oldest coins found in the agora should be addressed here. In one of my earlier publications I stated that the oldest coins found in the discussed area are anonymous bronze of the *Macedonian shield/helmet* type (ca. 315–306 or 306–300 BCE; Fig. 9) and well known bronzes with *helmeted head of the king/prow* minted in ca. 300–295 BCE by Demetrius Poliorcetes (Fig. 10).²⁹ Most probably both belong to the local Cypriot issues (mint: Salamis).³⁰ However, a careful examination of the material revealed another interesting example (Fig. 11). A very bad preserved bronze coin (inv. no PAP/FR) can be recognized, basing mainly on the fragmentary survived legend [ΑΛΞΑ]ΝΔ[ΡΟΥ], as belonging to the common

²⁹ Bodzek 2020, pp. 378–379.

³⁰ Bodzek 2020, pp. 378–379.

Alexander's the Great bronze coin type *Heracles head/bow in bowcase and club*.³¹ Such bronze issues, both lifetime and posthumous, were minted in the name of Alexander also in several Cypriote mints, i.e. Amathus, Citium, Curium, Paphos (so called *Palaepaphos*) and Salamis, between 333 and 317 BCE.³² However, the state of preservation does not allow for the attribution of the coin from the Paphos agora to a specific mint or issue, it is tempting to consider it as a product of one of the Cypriot centers. Perhaps even Paphos (*Palaepaphos*) could be taken into consideration. This strengthens the thesis that the oldest coins circulating in the agora predate the final Ptolemaic conquest and some could even be issued by the rulers of independent Cypriot kingdoms. As was stated above the latest Hellenistic coins from agora can be dated to the reign of Cleopatra VII in case of Ptolemaic coins and even little later in case of exemplars minted in other mints.³³



Fig. 9. Anonymous (Nikokreon?, Menelaos?), AE, 323–315 or 316–306 BCE, Salamis Mint; Inv. No. PAP/FR63/2014, photo by R. Słaboński, scale 1.5:1



Fig. 10. Demetrius I Poliorketes (306–283 BCE), AE, 300–295 BCE, Salamis Mint?; Inv. No. PAP/FR42/2011, photo by M. Iwan, scale 1.5:1



Fig. 11. Alexander the Great (336–323), AE, ca. 333–317 BCE?, a Cypriot Mint?; Inv. No PAP/FR42/2015, photo by Robert Słaboński, scale 1.5:1

³¹ Price 1991, pp. 31–32; cf. Mørkholm 1991, pp. 42–54.

³² Cf. Price 1991, pp. 383–384, nos 3090–3090A, 3099 (Amathus), pp. 384–386, nos 3111–3111A (Citium), p. 386, nos 3112–3114A (Curium), pp. 388–389, no. 3124 (Paphos), pp. 390–395, nos 3143–3147 (Salamis).

³³ For example RPC I, no. 3903 (Cleopatra VII).

Table 4. Chronological structure of PAP Hellenistic Coin Finds from the seasons 2011–2019

Period	late 4 th /early 3 rd cent. BCE	3 rd cent. BCE	2 nd cent. BCE	late 2 nd –1 st cent. BCE
Macedonian-Antigonid	7			
Ptolemaic		8	10	74 + 15?
<i>Zeus</i> / <i>Zeus</i>				37
Syro-Palestinian			3	8
SE Aegean			2	1

The dominant group among Hellenistic coins assembled from the agora form that dated to the late 2nd and 1st century BCE.³⁴ At least 137 such coins were registered, including 89 Ptolemaic, 37 of *Zeus*/*Zeus* type, eight of Hasmonean rulers and three struck in south-east Aegean mints. This makes over 76% of all finds. Such a chronological structure of coin finds clearly indicates the late 2nd and 1st centuries BCE as a period of intense monetary circulation in the agora. Additionally it is in line with the general dating of significant changes in the functioning of the agora in Nea Paphos.³⁵ First of all, significant architectural and urban changes took place in the agora in the late Hellenistic period.³⁶ The southern and eastern porticoes were erected, and the site itself took the form of a *tetrastoon*. Perhaps it was during this period that the agora began to function as a trading market. The intense coin circulation continued in the early Roman Imperial period.³⁷

CONCLUSIONS

The presented observations must be treated as preliminary. First, the work on the material is still ongoing. Secondly, it should be remembered that only 3% of the total area of the agora has been studied so far. It seems, however, that possible changes will concern more detailed arrangements, such as the possible presence of other coins preceding the Ptolemaic conquest (coins minted by the rulers of independent kingdoms of Cyprus), the percentage of individual Ptolemaic issues or the presence of coins minted in non-Cypriot mints. We can, however, as it seems, safely assume that such general findings as the dominance of Ptolemaic coin finds, the chronological and denomination structure of the latter, the significant presence of Hellenistic coins of the *Zeus*/*Zeus* type and those minted

³⁴ Of course the years of Roman rule between 58 and 47 BCE should be excluded.

³⁵ On spatial and architectural development of the agora see Misk 2020.

³⁶ Misk 2020, pp. 242–243.

³⁷ On finds of Roman coins in the agora cf. Bodzek 2020, pp. 383–389.

in Palestine will not change. Such a conclusion is prompted by the analysis of finds from other sites located in the area of ancient Nea Paphos, showing similar characteristics.

ABBREVIATIONS

- AJA – American Journal of Archaeology.
ARDAC – Annual Report of the Department of Antiquities, Cyprus.
BSFN – Bulletin de la Société française de numismatique.
RPC I – *Roman Provincial Coinage*, vol. 1, *From the Death of Caesar to Death of Vitellius (44 B.C. – A.D. 69)*, eds M. Amandry, A. Burnett and P.P. Ripolles, London–Paris 1992.
SNG Keckman I – U. Westermark and K. Konuk, *Sylloge Nummorum Graecorum. Finland. The Erkki Keckman Collection in the Skopbank, Helsinki*, part I, *Karia*, The Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters, Helsinki 1994.
Svoronos – J.N. Svoronos, *Τα νομίσματα του κράτους των Πτολεμαίων*, P.D. Sakellarios, Athens 1904–1908.

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MONETY HELLENISTYCZNE Z BADAŃ UNIWERSYTETU
JAGIELLOŃSKIEGO NA HELLENISTYCZNO-RZYMSKIEJ AGORZE
W NEA PAFOS (*PAPHOS AGORA PROJECT* 2011–2019):
OBSERWACJE WSTĘPNE

(Streszczenie)

Cypr, położona we wschodniej części basenu Morza Śródziemnego wyspa o strategicznej lokalizacji, posiadająca zasoby surowców naturalnych, przede wszystkim miedzi i drewna, podobnie jak w epokach poprzednich odgrywała znaczącą rolę w okresie hellenistycznym. Podporządkowana ok. 310 r. p.n.e. Ptolemeuszowi I, była jedną z najważniejszych jeśli nie najważniejszą zamorską posiadłością Lagidów, w zasadzie aż po kres władzy Kleopatry VII, ostatniej władczyni ptolemejskiego Egiptu. Jednym z najważniejszych ośrodków miejskich na wyspie, pełniącym rolę siedziby gubernatora było w okresie hellenistycznym Nea Pafos. Miasto założone w końcu IV lub w początkach III w. p.n.e., przez Nikoklesa lub Ptolemeusza I zlokalizowane było w zachodniej części południowego wybrzeża Cypru. Od 2011 r. na agorze miasta prowadzone są interdyscyplinarne badania prowadzone przez zespół archeologów z Instytutu Archeologii Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego, kierowany przez profesor Ewdoksję Papuci-Władykę. Polskie badania na pafijskiej agorze zostały poprzedzone pracami prowadzonymi od końca lat 60. do początku 70. XX w. przez znanego cypryjskiego archeologa Kyriakosa Nicolaou, który jako pierwszy zidentyfikował badany przez siebie teren jako agorę. Datował ją jednak na okres rzymski. Badania polskie udowodniły, że agora istniała w tym miejscu już w okresie hellenistycznym.

Podczas badań na agorze odsłonięte zostały pozostałości architektoniczne oraz odkryto liczne zabytki ruchome. Wśród tych ostatnich obok ceramiki najliczniejszą grupę stanowią monety. W trakcie kampanii 2011–2019 znaleziono łącznie 480 monet i krążków mennicznych, wśród których w miarę pewnie zidentyfikowano co najmniej 180 egzemplarzy pochodzących z okresu hellenistycznego. Największą grupę wśród tych ostatnich stanowią monety ptolemejskie w liczbie 121 (ponad 67%). Są to w zdecydowanej większości egzemplarze należące do emisji brązów. Jedynie dwie spośród znalezionych monet to srebrne tetradrachmy. Większość ptolemejskich monet odkrytych na agorze w Nea Pafos wybito w okresie od końca II po I w. p.n.e. Jedynie nieliczne egzemplarze można datować na III lub wcześniejsze fazy II w. p.n.e. Zdecydowana większość powstała w mennicach cypryjskich, przede wszystkim w Pafos i Salaminie. Monety ptolemejskie bite poza Cyprem pochodzą z mennicy w Aleksandrii. Drugą co liczebności grupę stanowią anonimowe monety typu *Zeus/Zeus* zarejestrowane w liczbie 37 egzemplarzy (20,5% wszystkich monet hellenistycznych). Ich precyzyjna atrybucja nie jest na razie ustalona. Nie ulega jednak wątpliwości, że były one bite na Cyprze w okresie hellenistycznym. Kolejne grupy tworzą monety z regionu syro-palestyńskiego (łącznie 11 egzemplarzy – ponad 6%) bite przez hasmonejskich i seleukidzkich władców, monety macedońskie i antygonidzkie (łącznie 7 egzemplarzy – 3,8%) oraz te bite w południowo-wschodniej części basenu Morza Egejskiego (3 egzemplarze – 1,6%). Wszystkie wymienione grupy tworzą monety brązowe. W zdecydowanej większości zostały one wybite w II (raczej w jego 2. połowie)

i I w. p.n.e., co znakomicie współgra z datowaniem monet ptolemejskich. Jedynie monety z grupy macedońskiej i antygonidzkiej datowane są na koniec IV i początki III w. p.n.e. Taka chronologia zarejestrowanych monet sugeruje, że intensywny obieg monetarny na agorze można datować na 2. połowę, a może nawet koniec II i na I w. p.n.e. To z kolei współgra z chronologią przestrzennego i urbanistycznego rozwoju agory w okresie hellenistycznym.

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